

London, August 19 1958
Tuesday

Dear Jim:

crow
from

Your letter of August ? was here in Bruce's hands upon our arrival from Bergen this afternoon. We had an interesting tour of the Sognefjord during a two day steamer trip, and the weather really came through yesterday for a (rare!) sunny day to look at Bergen. Thanks for overlooking my mail, which I was happy to find accumulated, though as you say none of it seems terribly urgent at this distance.

As to your decision, Jim, I mainly want to wish you the utmost satisfaction and success in the job you decided to take. You will certainly not be disappointed in it; whether Stanford might have worked out to be enough better in various ways to be worth the effort of moving would be hard for anyone to guess at, and you had to decide for yourself. It would be unrealistic to propose that the offer be kept open for the present, but perhaps in the end both of us may have said no to Stanford once. My own disappointment qua Stanford is nearly matched by reassurance qua Wisconsin, and I can hardly help feeling that you were partly motivated by a sense of responsibility to Wisconsin, for which your decision does offer some vicarious satisfaction. These considerations may change with time too, one way or the other.

I had written to Barton Childs just before we left, and wonder whether his more recent letter was in reply. I also asked him not to consider Wisconsin too hastily, but I imagine he feels happy enough where he is not to want to make any adventurous moves to Wisconsin until he has a clear picture of his associations in physiological genetics. So this is one of many reasons for Wisconsin to take some resolute action in this field.

I hope ~~XXX~~ Gaylen won't be embarrassed by a third-party acknowledgment; there is no good reason for him to be, but he might be rather touchy just at the instant. I have to write him anyhow.

We've just landed here, and found ourselves established in a flat belonging to one of Bruce's friends: the address is 'Pembroke Mews', and except that lorries have replaced horses, it looks just as you would expect. After a couple of days of laziness here, we're driving north to Edinburgh to meet the Mitchisons and go on to Skye. We'll reach Edinburgh Friday the 22d, and should be at Skye by the time you get this. We'll probably be back at London a day or two earlier than planned; anyone, this is still the last address before SFO.

Aside from some travel-weariness, which one has to try to postpone, we're having a fine time. I thought of flying over to California a bit earlier and renewing our vacation there (beginning and end of advt.) but we still have lots of people to see, and the trip is not a bad blend of business and pleasure. ~~Tomorrow~~ Tomorrow or next day we have to go to Colindale and see BS Anderson demonstrate the vital staining of RNA and DNA of phage-infected bacteria with acridine orange.

All best wishes,